

Message Text

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67

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MC-02 EB-07 OMB-01 AID-05 IGA-01 ACDA-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /078 W

----- 125758

R 041237Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2026

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 14599

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PK, US

SUBJ: ARMS FOR PAKISTAN: DESTROYERS

REF: ISLAMABAD 10032

1. EMBASSY NEW DELHI ACCEPTS CREDIBILITY OF ONE-FOR-ONE REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING PAK DESTROYERS WITH GEARING CLASS BY SALE TO GOP. WE BELIEVE ARGUMENTATION OFFERED BY REFTTEL, FACT THAT INDIANS ARE THEMSELVES UPGRADING THEIR FLEET WITH NEW SOVIET SHIPS AS WELL AS LEANDER-CLASS FRIGATES, LIMITED OFFENSIVE CAPABILITY OF GEARING CLASS SHIPS, AND CONTINUING OVERWHELMING INDIAN NAVAL BALANCE AT SEA WILL SUFFICE TO ENABLE US TO RESPOND PLAUSIBLY TO ANY INDIAN COMPLAINTS SHOULD WE DECIDE TO MAKE SALE.

2. UNTIL WE BEGIN MAKING ARMS SALES TO PAKISTAN, WE HAVE FEW GUIDELINES AS TO HOW VIGOROUSLY THE INDIANS WILL REACT PUBLICLY OR THE EXTENT OF THEIR TOLERANCE AS FAR AS US-INDIA RELATIONS ARE CONCERNED. IN REGARD TO PUBLIC REACTION, OUR GUESS IS THAT THE GOI WILL FEEL IMPELLED TO MAKE A STRONGLY CRITICAL PUBLIC STATEMENT. IN THE SPECTRUM OF SALES WHICH ARE LIKELY TO GENUINELY DISTURB INDIAN POLICY MAKERS OR POSSIBLY INTERRUPT THE DEVELOPMENT OF INDO-US COOPERATION IN
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OTHER AREAS, HOWEVER, WE WOULD PLACE THE GEARING

TRANSACTION ONLY IN THE MIDDLE RANK, CERTAINLY WELL
BELOW A NEW FIGHTER-BOMBER OR NEW TANKS. OF COURSE,
IF THE DESTROYER SALE EMERGED AS PART OF A RANGE OF
ITEMS, THE SUM MAY CAUSE A CONSIDERABLY STRONGER PUBLIC
AND PRIVATE REACTION.
SAXBE

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Message Attributes

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